

REMARKS

A reconsideration of the Final Rejection of June 4, 2003 is respectfully requested.

The informalities in Claim 12 noted by the Examiner have been addressed and a withdrawal of the informality objection is respectfully requested.

The indefinite terminology in Claim 17 noted by the Examiner has been deleted. A withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

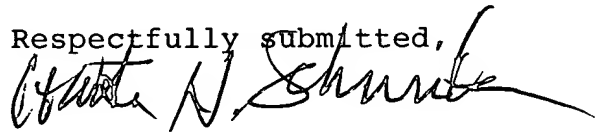
Claims 12-17 have been finally rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art cited and reasons made of record with respect to original Claims 1-11 in the Office communication of 10/01/2002. The Examiner has held that the claims are not restricted to purely amidic cross linkage, as Applicant has argued, but, as presented, do not exclude other cross links. For this reason, the Examiner has held that the claims are not patentably distinct over the cited art.

It is submitted that the combination of the language added to and deleted from Claim 12 by this Amendment now limits the claim to amidic cross-linked polysaccharides. The restriction of the claim to amidic cross-linkage is supported by the preferred embodiment of "A" of the polyamine general formula, as well as the specific examples of the disclosure, while the patentable distinction over the art is evidenced by the Sportoletti Rule 132 Declaration earlier submitted.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed Amendment introduces no new matter; raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search; and places the application in better condition for appeal.

Applicant respectfully urges an early consideration leading to entry of the Amendment and the the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. in the absence of allowance, Applicant requests emtry of the Amendment for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter H. Schneider", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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